

Phil a Dec 30/57

Dear Garrison:

I want to recall to your mind some facts which you have probably forgotten, - or of which you possibly may have never had any knowledge. My object in doing so will be seen before I have done.

Some <sup>4 or</sup> 5 or 6 years ago there appeared in the 4th page of the Liberator an article reflecting severely on the clergy of Lowell & intimating I believe that they were in the practice of pocketing in pure clerical way the factory fines out of their wages. My father-in-law Michael Speckman of Chelmsford, an old subscriber to the Liberator & at that time a strong advocate of it, had occasion to quote this article in a conversation with the member of Congress from his district, as a proof of some charge which he was preparing against the clergy. His opponent, the member of Congress, pronounced the article to be false. My father-in-law took an opportunity soon after this to write to you to know what authority you had for publishing it - not doubting him-

self known that it was true & that you would  
give him <sup>ample</sup> ~~full~~ warrant for its publication.  
He received no answer, and wrote again.  
Still he received no reply. Seeing that he  
took it a good deal to heart, and —  
though attaching very little importance to  
the matter myself — wishing that his mind  
might be made easy by a word of explanation,  
I wrote to you myself stating to you  
the circumstances of the case. Having  
done this the whole subject passed  
out of my mind. But not so with  
Mr. Speakman. I have since discovered  
that he has ever since felt exceedingly  
pained, mortified & irritated about it.  
He was mortified to be caught in quo-  
ting for a fact what was denied & what  
he was utterly unable to know, & pained  
& irritated that, from different letters to  
you, (for it appears he wrote to you <sup>again</sup>, after  
my letter referred to) written in <sup>so</sup> ~~so~~  
respectful language had failed to elicit  
a word of reply.

Now I think it quite possible that  
part of these letters may have never ~~reached~~

you & I have no doubt that the whole  
thing is susceptible of an easy explanation  
without making you chargeable with any  
wilful slight or intentional disrespect  
in the matter; and under ordinary cir-  
cumstances I should have said nothing  
to you about it; but just now my father-  
in-law is in very poor health. He is old  
& fast declining, and his children are an-  
xious to do all they can to minister to  
his comfort. The only medicaments that can  
do him good must be of a neutral kind,  
and I know of nothing that would be  
more likely to be of service in this way than  
something that would explain your appar-  
ent disrespect to him & re-instate him  
in possession of his former good opinion of  
the Liberator & its editor. Will you not  
drop me a line on this subject, a  
line so frank as will do for me to  
hasten an envelope & send to him  
by mail?

W. L. Garrison      Yours most truly  
D. W. Whistler

